

UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED IN FULL

~~Cable Text:~~
~~UNCLASSIFIED~~
~~TELEGRAM~~

December 21, 2001

To: SECSTATE WASHDC - ROUTINE
Action: NHA
From: AMEMBASSY CARACAS (CARACAS 3726 # ROUTINE)
TAGS: SOCI, PCOV, KPAO, VE
Captions: None
Subject: GAITAS - NO TO CHAVEZ, NO TO TERRORISM
Ref: None
INTRODUCTION
NOT A SUMMARY

Chrom i'n

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. NORMALLY, POPULAR MUSIC IS NOT A SERIOUS TOPIC FOR REPORTING. HOWEVER, CURRENT CHRISTMAS SONGS INDICATE THAT CHAVEZ'S POPULARITY MAY BE SLIPPING IN HIS VERY CENTER OF POWER - THE POOR. THESE SONGS SATIRICALLY CRITICIZE CHAVEZ'S TRAVELS, HIS INFATUATION WITH CUBA, AND HIS WEEKLY RADIO "CADENAS," HARANGUES WHICH ALL BROADCAST MEDIA MUST AIR. FINALLY, ONE BOOTLEG SONG DECLARES COMPLETE SOLIDARITY WITH THE US-LED COALITION AGAINST TERRORISM. END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

2. GAITAS ARE A TRADITIONAL FORM OF MUSIC FROM THE VENEZUELA'S OIL-PRODUCING STATE. THESE RAUCOUS SONGS HAVE THEIR ORIGINS IN CELEBRATIONS OF THE PATRON SAINTS OF CHIQUENCIRA. FROM THE FEELING, THE

2. GAITAS ARE A TRADITIONAL FORM OF MUSIC FROM ZULIA, VENEZUELA'S OIL-PRODUCING STATE. THESE UPGRADE, SOMEWHAT RACIOUS SONGS HAVE THEIR ORIGINS IN THE NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS OF THE PATRON SAINT OF MARACAIBO, THE VIRGIN OF CHIQUINCUIRA. FROM THEIR ORIGINS IN POPULAR RELIGIOUS PRELING, THE GAITAS MOVED TO SONGS EXTOLLING REGIONAL PRIDE AND FROM THENCE TO POLITICAL COMMENTARY, AND, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, PROTEST. BECAUSE THEY HAVE THEIR ORIGIN IN THE BARS OF THE OLDER AND POORER SECTIONS OF MARACAIBO, THEY ARE A GOOD BAROMETER FOR PUBLIC OPINION WITHIN THE SECTORS OF THE POPULACE TRADITIONALLY SEEN AS MOST SUPPORTIVE OF PRESIDENT CHAVEZ. BUT THAT SUPPORT MAY BE ERODING.

NO TO CHAVEZ

3. THIS YEAR SEVEN (A RECORD NUMBER) GAITAS HAVE REACHED HIT PARADE STATUS, AND ALL ARE SEVERE CRITICISMS OF THE CHAVEZ STYLE. SOME ARE BROADLY SATIRIC OF THE PRESIDENTIAL "CADENAS," RADIO SHOWS THAT GO ON FOR HOURS AT A TIME; OTHERS EQUATE THE HEAD OF STATE WITH PINOCCHIO (WHOSE NOSE GREW LONGER WITH EVERY LIE), WHILE STILL OTHERS LAMASTE THE INCREASING INFLUENCE OF HAVANA ON VENEZUELAN DAILY LIFE. IN ONE GAITA, THE BAND JOYFULLY SINGS, "WE ALL IDENTIFY WITH THE SQUALID ONES," APPROPRIATING THE PRESIDENT'S CURRENT USE OF VOCABULARY WHEN REFERRING TO THOSE WHO OPPOSE HIM AS ONLY THE "SQUALID" RICH. WHILE IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT CHAVEZ IS WEAK IN ZULIA, THE NATIONWIDE ACCEPTANCE OF THESE SONGS IS AN INDICATION THAT CHAVEZ'S SUPPORT IN THE POORER NEIGHBORHOODS MAY BE WAVING.

NO TO TERRORISM!

ANOTHER GAITA
CLARKES.

NO TO TERRORISM!

4. ANOTHER GAITA, WHICH HAS RECEIVED WIDE AIRPLAY, DECLARES, "WE SUPPORT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM." THIS GAITA, A BOOTLEG ONE NOT ON SALE IN THE RECORD SHOPS, GOES ON TO DECLARE FULL SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT BUSH IN HIS AIR ATTACKS AGAINST TERRORISM - A MUCH CLEARER STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE AIMS OF THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM THAN HAS BEEN WITH THE POPULIST PRESIDENT AND HIS INNER CIRCLE. WHILE THIS MIGHT BE SEEN AS JUST WHISTLING IN THE WIND, IT IS SIGNIFICANT HERE WHO IS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 05 JUN 2006 200304421

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

DOING THE WHISTLING.

HRINAK

Additional Addressees:
None

cc:
None

Distribution:

TED5762

ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00
	SRPP-00	DS-00	ED-01	UTED-00	VC-00	HHS-01	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PC-01	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00
	USIE-00	FMB-00	DSCC-00	DEL-02	G-00	WFAT-00	SAS-00

/011W

-----4F3E31 212116Z /38

R 212031Z DEC 01
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4385

UNCLAS CARACAS 003726

FOR WHA/AND (NARANJO)
FOR WHA/PDA (BYERS)
FOR INR (COZART)

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, RGOV, KPAO, VE
SUBJECT: GAITAS - NO TO CHAVEZ, NO TO TERRORISM

End Cable Text

Brian R Naranjo 12/28/2001 09:03:43 AM From DB/Inbox: Brian R Naranjo

UNCLASSIFIED

2

UNCLASSIFIED